



Game Of Drones

US Officials: Pilot Reports of Drone Sightings Grow

A hexacopter drone is flown by Intelligent UAS, during a drone demonstration in Cordova, Md. Pilot reports of drone sightings so far this year are more than double last year, the FAA reported Thursday, August 13, 2015.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)
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US investigating whether Islamic State used chemical weapons in northern Iraq

JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

EDGARTOWN, Massachusetts (AP) — The United States is investigating whether the Islamic State used chemical weapons, the White House said Thursday, following allegations that IS militants deployed chemical weapons against Kurdish forces in northern Iraq.

Alistair Baskey, a spokesman for the White House's National Security Council, said the U.S. is taking the allegations "very seriously" and seeking more information about what happened. He noted that IS had been accused of using such weapons before.

"We continue to monitor these reports closely, and would further stress that any use of chemicals or biological material as a weapon is completely inconsistent with international standards and norms regarding such capabilities," Baskey said in a statement.

Earlier Thursday, Kurdish officials said their forces, known as peshmerga, were attacked the day before near the town of Makhmour, not far from Irbil. Germany's military has been training the Kurds in the area, and the German Defense Ministry said some 60 Kurdish fighters had suffered breathing difficulties from the attack — a telltale sign of chemical weapons use. But neither Germany nor the Kurds specified which type of chemical weapons may have been used. Confirmation of chemical weapons use by IS would mark a dramatic turn in the U.S.-led effort to rout the extremist group from the roughly one-third of Iraq and Syria that it controls. Although the U.S. and its coalition partners are mounting airstrikes against the Islamic State, they are relying on local forces like the Kurds, the Iraqi military and others to do the fighting on the ground. Already, those forces have struggled to match the might of the well-funded and heav-

ily armed extremist group. At the United Nations, U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power said the U.S. was speaking with the Kurds who had made the allegations to gather more information. She said that if reports of chemical weapons are true, they would further prove that what IS calls warfare is really "just systematic attacks on civilians who don't accord to their particularly perverse world view."

"I think we will have to again move forward on these allegations, get whatever evidence we can," Power said.

She added that as a result of earlier chemical weapons use by the Syrian government, the U.S. and its partners now have advanced forensic systems to analyze chemical weapons attacks. She said anyone responsible should be held accountable.

Similar reports of chemical weapons use by IS had surfaced in July. But it's unclear exactly where the extremist group may have obtained any chemical weapons. □

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Smoke rises as Iraqi security forces backed by Shiite and Sunni pro-government fighters bomb Islamic State group positions at the front line in the eastern suburbs of Ramadi, Anbar province, Iraq. The United States is investigating whether the Islamic State used chemical weapons, the White House said Thursday, following allegations that IS militants deployed chemical weapons against Kurdish forces in northern Iraq. (AP Photo)

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US Officials: Pilot Reports of Drone Sightings Grow

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pilot reports of drone sightings in the U.S. so far this year are more than double last year, according to aviation officials, raising concern about the potential for a deadly collision. There have been more than 650 reports this year by pilots of unmanned aircraft flying near manned aircraft, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement. There were 238 drone sightings in all of 2014.

The reports come from pilots of a variety of aircraft, including many large airliners. The concern is that if a drone collides with an aircraft engine, it could disable the engine much like birds do sometimes when they get chewed up by



A hexacopter drone is flown in Cordova, Md. Pilot reports of drone sightings so far this year are more than double last year, the Federal Aviation Administration reported Thursday, August 13, 2015.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

engines. Also, a high speed collision with a drone might damage the surface of a plane, changing the air-

flows in a way that makes the plane difficult to maneuver. There were 16 drone sight-

ings reported in June 2014, and 36 the following month. This year, there were 138 reports from pilots flying up to 10,000 feet (3,000 meters) in altitude in June, and 137 reports in July.

Earlier this week, crews on four commercial flights spotted a drone while preparing to land at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey. None of the pilots were required to make evasive maneuvers as a result of the sightings. The planes were between 2,000 and 3,000 feet (600 to 900 meters) in the air and eight to 13 miles (20 kilometers) away from the airport. The FAA generally restricts drone flights to beneath 400 feet (120 meters) and at least 3 miles (5 kilometers) from an airport.

Flying a drone "anywhere near" an airplane can bring criminal charges and fines up to \$25,000, according to the FAA.

Suspected drones interfered with aircraft fighting at least 13 wildfires so far this year, up from four fires last year and only scattered incidents before, according to the U.S. Forest Service. Last month, crews were grounded for 20 minutes as flames spread in a wildfire in California after five drones were sighted.

Firefighting agencies have introduced public service announcements to warn drone hobbyists, while lawmakers are seeking stiffer penalties for interfering. The FAA said it is working closely with law enforcement to identify and investigate unauthorized drone

operations. The agency has levied civil penalties for several unauthorized flights around the country, and has dozens of open enforcement cases.

Hobbyists are allowed to fly small drones, which are hardly different from model aircraft, for non-commercial purposes as long as they abide by a few rules, including keeping the aircraft within the line of sight of the operator at all times. The FAA recently passed a milestone of 1,000 permits granted to businesses to fly drones for aerial photography, to monitor pipelines and electrical transmission towers, and to inspect smokestacks, crops and the undersides of bridges, among other uses.

Brian Wynee, president of the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, said "the proliferation of irresponsible (drone) flights" underscores the need for the FAA to finalize rules and enforce existing regulations more aggressively.

Pilot and other unions have urged the agency not to move too quickly to expand drone flights.

"There is little doubt that we should not open the skies to widespread commercial and recreational drone use — oh, and whatever those drones were doing hovering over brush fires — until we understand the challenge and fully implement enforceable safety rules," said Ed Wytkind, head of the AFL-CIO's Transportation Trades Department. □

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Jeb Bush leaves door open for use of torture by government



Republican presidential candidate, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, speaks during a forum sponsored by Americans for Peace, Prosperity and Security, Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015, at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

KEN DILANIAN

AP Intelligence Writer

DAVENPORT, Iowa (AP) —

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush on Thursday declined to rule out resuming the use of torture under some circumstances by the U.S. government.

The former Florida governor said that in general, he believes torture is inappropriate, and that he was glad his brother, former President George W. Bush, largely ended

the CIA's use of the techniques before he left office. The CIA used waterboarding, slapping, nudity, sleep deprivation, humiliation and other methods to coerce al-Qaida detainees — methods the military would be prohibited from using on prisoners of war.

"I don't want to make a definitive, blanket kind of statement," Bush told an audience of Iowa Republicans, when asked whether he would keep in place or repeal President Barack

Obama's executive order banning so-called enhanced interrogation techniques by the CIA.

Bush, because of his brother and father — both former U.S. presidents — had the most name recognition entering the race to win the 2016 Republican Party nomination. However, billionaire businessman Donald Trump has been dominating the race this summer, even though he is still considered a long-shot candidate for the nomina-

tion.

A Senate report released last year cited CIA records in concluding that the techniques were more brutal than previously disclosed, that the CIA lied about them, and that they failed to produce unique, life-saving intelligence. The CIA and its defenders take issue with the report.

Jeb Bush said he believed that the techniques were effective in producing intelligence, but that "now we're in a different environment."

He suggested there may be occasions when brutal interrogations were called for to keep the country safe.

"That's why I'm not saying in every condition, under every possible scenario," Bush said.

Bush has been walking a careful path, seeking to disassociate himself from some of the unpopular aspects of his brother's legacy while praising him.

In discussing the Iraq war, for example, Bush, who previously acknowledged that the intelligence didn't support the decision to invade, on Thursday said he had learned from some of the mistakes made during the occupation, including what he said was a wrong decision to disband the Iraqi military. He said his brother also now believes that was a mistake.

Bush blames the rise of the Islamic State group on what he said was Obama's failure to negotiate an agreement to leave U.S. troops there in 2011. □

Kentucky:

Official denies marriage licenses to gay couples

MOREHEAD, Kentucky (AP) —

Local officials in the U.S. turned away two gay couples who sought marriage licenses on Thursday, defying a federal judge's order that said deeply held Christian beliefs don't excuse authorities from following the law.

The fight in Rowan County in Kentucky state began soon after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized gay marriage nationwide in June. County Clerk Kim Davis cited her religious beliefs and decided not to issue marriage licenses to any couple, gay or straight. Five couples sued and legal experts likened the case to the resistance some local officials in the South put up five decades ago after the

Supreme Court legalized interracial marriage.

"I will say that people are cruel, they are cruel, these people are cruel," said David Ermold, who was denied a license to marry his partner of 17 years.

The clerk's office rejected the couples' bid for licenses just hours after U.S. District Judge David L. Bunning ordered her to comply with the Supreme Court's ruling. Davis wasn't at her office Thursday, but deputy clerk Nathan Davis said the office was advised by its attorneys with a Christian law firm to continue refusing same-sex couples as it appeals. James Yates and William Smith Jr., a couple for nearly a decade, were the second pair turned away

Thursday. They also were turned away a month ago.

They held hands as they walked into the clerk's office, and gay rights activists shouted "Good luck!" from the street, holding signs reading "clerk not clergy" and "obey the law."

After the couple was denied, they joined the protesters.

"I still get frustrated sometimes, but then I take a deep breath and go on. I know it's going to get resolved. It's just a matter of when," Yates said.

Davis argued that issuing a same-sex marriage license that contains her signature is the same as her approving the marriage, which she said violates her Christian beliefs. □

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Volunteer Peggy Bragg, of Des Moines, Iowa, unloads donated baked goods at the Des Moines Area Religious Council food pantry in Des Moines, Iowa. Food banks across the country are seeing surging demand for free groceries despite a growing economy and steadily declining unemployment rate, leading some charities to reduce the amount of food they offer each family.
(AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

Food banks struggle to meet demand

SCOTT McFETRIDGE
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

— Food banks across the United States are seeing a rising demand for free groceries despite the growing economy, leading some charities to reduce the amount of food they offer each family.

U.S. food banks are expected to give away about 4 billion pounds (1.81 billion kilograms) of food this year, more than double the amount provided a decade ago, according to Feeding America, the nation's primary food bank network. The group gave away 3.8 billion in 2013.

While reliance on food banks exploded when the economy dropped in 2008, groups said demand continues to rise year after year.

"We get lines of people every day, starting at 6:30 in the morning," said Sheila Moore, who oversees food distribution at The Storehouse, the largest pantry in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Food distribution there has

climbed 15 percent in the past year.

James Ziliak, who founded the Center for Poverty Research at the University of Kentucky, said the increased demand is surprising since the economy is growing and unemployment has dropped from 10 percent during the recession to 5.3 percent last month. However, many people who have found jobs are working only part-time or for low wages, and others have stopped looking for work.

The drop in food voucher rolls by nearly 2.5 million people from recession levels could be contributing to the food bank demand, he said, because people who no longer qualify for the government aid may still not earn enough to pay their bills. According to the U.S. Labor Department, wages and salaries rose only 0.2 percent in the second quarter of the year.

Feeding America spokesman Ross Fraser said a recent study by his organization estimated that 46

million people sought food assistance at least once in 2014. Feeding America, which coordinates large food donations for 199 food banks nationwide, has seen donations of food and money to the Chicago-based organization climb from \$598 million in 2008 to \$2.1 billion in 2014. The group coordinates donations from larger retailers, like Walmart, while local food banks also seek food from smaller businesses and buy groceries with donated money.

Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Food Banks, who has been working in food charities since the 1980s, said that when earlier economic downturns ended, food demand declined, but not this time.

In Iowa, two years of 20 percent increases in demand forced the Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry Network on Aug. 1 to reduce the food given out at its 12 pantries from a four-day supply to three. □

\$140M in conservation work proposed for Gulf of Mexico

CAIN BURDEAU
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP)

— Ten watersheds around the rim of the Gulf of Mexico — from Florida to Texas — are being looked at as sites for \$140 million in proposed conservation projects under a plan to restore the Gulf from BP's catastrophic 2010 oil spill. On Thursday the Gulf Coast Restoration Council, a body set up by Congress to handle money derived from fines from the spill, released a list of the projects it wants to fund. This money comes from a settlement with Transocean Deepwater Inc., a drilling company BP hired for its ill-fated well off the coast of Louisiana that blew out, causing the nation's largest offshore spill. The projects range from plugging oil and gas wells along the coast in Texas to planting sea grasses in Tampa Bay to planning for a Mississippi River diversion. The costliest projects are in Mississippi and Louisiana, states that were hit hard by BP's oil spill.

In Mississippi, the council is looking at spending \$15.5 million to buy parcels of land along the coast to better conserve land and protect wildlife.

In Louisiana, the council is looking at spending \$14 million to design a diversion of Mississippi River water into the Maurepas Swamp, an area of bald cypress and tupelo trees northwest of New Orleans. The idea is to reintroduce freshwater and sediment into the swamp.

For more information about the projects and the Gulf Coast Restoration Council, go to www.RestoretheGulf.gov.

Before money can be spent, the council will gather the public's opinions on the projects at meetings between Aug. 20 and Sept. 16. The first meeting will take place Aug. 20 in Corpus Christi, Texas, at Texas A&M University. The public can submit comments on the plans until Sept. 28.

Transocean's settlement over its role in the oil spill forced the company to pay about \$800 million, and the restoration council says it expects to get \$241 million, or 30 percent, of that amount.

Much more money is expected to come into the restoration fund from BP. In July, the five Gulf states, the federal government and the British oil giant agreed to settle civil claims arising from the 2010 spill.

Under the settlement, BP has agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$5.5 billion under the Clean Water Act, payable over 15 years. Eighty percent of that amount would go toward restoration, the council said.

U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, in a statement, said this was a step toward "meaningful and lasting natural resource restoration for Gulf Coast communities."

Besides the Clean Water Act fines, criminal fines and money for natural resources damage also are going toward Gulf restoration.

In 2011, BP paid \$1 billion to jump-start restoration projects and much of that money has been allocated and spent on projects, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. □



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US Financial Front:

American mortgage debt flat even as sales, prices rise

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Americans are buying more homes and at higher prices, yet new data shows that mortgage debt is little changed.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York said Thursday that outstanding U.S. mortgage debt slipped 0.7 percent in the April-June quarter to \$8.12 trillion. That is up slightly from a year ago and about the same level as three years ago when the housing market bottomed.

The second quarter's decline occurred even as Americans took out more new mortgages, either to refinance old loans or purchase homes. New mortgages totaled \$466 billion in the second quarter, the most in almost two years.

Those trends suggest Americans are paying down mortgage debt at roughly the same pace as new loans are made, evidence that homeowners remain wary of housing-related debt. Total mortgage debt peaked at \$9.29 trillion in the third quarter of 2008.

Overall, the New York Fed's report indicates that there is little sign of a return to bubble-era excesses in mortgage financing, even as the housing market rebounds. Would-be buyers are bidding up prices on a scarce supply of available homes. Sales of existing houses climbed to an eight-year high in June.

And home prices rose nearly 5 percent in May from a year earlier, according to the S&P/Case-Shiller 20-city index. They jumped 10 percent in Denver, 9.7 percent in San Francisco and 8.4 percent in Dallas — big increases that are making homeownership increas-

ingly unaffordable for the typical family.

Yet there are many signs in the New York Fed's report that housing finance is much healthier than before the recession. Just 95,000 people received new foreclosure notices in the second quarter, the fewest in the 16-year history of the data. And total And in another sign of caution, total borrowing on home-equity lines of credit fell \$11 billion in the second quarter, to \$499 billion. That's far below the peak of \$714 billion six years ago. The amount of new mortgages has risen for four straight quarters, the New York Fed said, after falling to a 14-year low of \$286 billion in last year's second quarter.

Several trends have offset those increases to keep overall mortgage debt mostly unchanged, ac-



A sign indicates a site has been sold in a new home development in Nashville, Tenn. Americans are buying more homes and at higher prices, yet new data shows that mortgage debt is little changed, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York said Thursday, August 13, 2015.

(AP Photo/Mark Humphrey)

cording to economists at the New York Fed. A wave of refinancing has lowered borrowing rates, allowing homeowners to pay down more principal each month and less interest. Many homebuyers are making larger down pay-

ments. And the proportion of investors and other buyers paying cash has been elevated for most of the economic recovery.

Still, the New York Fed's report also revealed some of downsides to recent housing trends. It's still very

difficult for those without sterling credit to get mortgages.

And a smaller proportion of Americans own homes, even as sales have ticked up. Just 63.4 percent of Americans are homeowners, down from 69 percent in 2007 and the lowest level in more than four decades. Separately, the New York Fed said that Americans are ramping up borrowing to purchase new cars. New auto loans rose to a 10-year high of \$119 billion. That pushed total outstanding auto loans above \$1 trillion for the first time.

Overall household debt — which includes mortgages, student loans, auto loans and credit cards — stood at \$11.85 trillion in the second quarter, little changed from the first. That is 6.5 percent below its peak in the third quarter of 2008, when it reached \$1.268 trillion. □

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Baghdad:

Truck bomb targeting Shiites at market kills 67

**VIVIAN SALAMA
SINAN SALAHEDDIN**
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — In one of the deadliest single attacks in postwar Baghdad, a truck bomb shattered a popular fruit-and-vegetable market in a teeming Shiite neighborhood Thursday, killing 67 people and wounding more than 150 others.

Militants from the self-described Islamic State claimed responsibility for the bombing that incinerated much of the Jameela market in the district of Sadr City. The dead and wounded were carried away in blood-soaked blankets and garbage bags amid the charred and twisted stalls and spilled produce. The Sunni extremist group, which holds about a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria, said it targeted a gathering place for Shiites and vowed more attacks. It often attacks military checkpoints or predominantly Shiite areas with the goal of undermining confidence in the government's



People evacuate the body of a victim killed from a bombing in Jameela market in the Iraqi capital's crowded Sadr City neighborhood Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015. A massive truck bomb ripped through a popular Baghdad food market in a predominantly Shiite neighborhood in the early morning hours on Thursday, killing at least 58 people, police officials said.

(AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

security efforts.

When it launched its major onslaught across northern Iraq last year, the Islamic State group vowed to continue on to Baghdad, but a mobilization of volunteer Shiite fighters deterred any significant attacks on the capital at that time.

For the past two weeks, thousands of Iraqis have staged protests calling on

the government to take a firm stance against corruption and reckless spending. Many see the corruption in the security forces as a major cause for its failures.

This week, the government approved a reform plan by Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi that includes taking some money that was to go to individual officials and redirecting it to

strengthening the Interior and Defense ministries.

While attacks are common in Baghdad, Thursday's was the deadliest single bombing in the capital since the height of Iraq's sectarian bloodletting in 2006-07. More than 200 people were killed in a 2006 attack by a series of car bombs and mortar rounds that struck Sadr City. □

Turkey coalition talks fail; new elections loom

SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Efforts on Thursday by Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu to forge a coalition alliance with the country's pro-secular party failed, edging Turkey closer toward new elections as it grapples with escalating violence.

Davutoglu said discussions with pro-secular party leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu were frank but the two party leaders could not reach common ground for a power-sharing deal.

"The likelihood of going to (elections) has increased. In fact,

it has become the only option," Davutoglu said after the talks that lasted less than two hours.

He did not say when the elections could be held but said a date should be set "at the closest time possible."

Davutoglu's Islamic-rooted ruling party lost its majority in June elections, forcing it to seek a coalition to remain in power. The deadline for forming a government is the end of next week.

The prime minister could still turn to the nationalist party for a partnership, but that party's leader has ruled out joining any party in a coalition. Another option is for the ruling party to form a minority government but that would need the support of another party in a vote of confidence.

By tradition, a party leader who fails to form a government must give other parties a chance to do so, but Davutoglu gave no indication he would. □

Al-Qaida leader pledges allegiance to new Taliban chief

CAIRO (AP) — Al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri purportedly pledged his group's allegiance to the new leader of the Taliban following the death of Mullah Mohammad Omar in an audio recording that surfaced Thursday.

The pledge came in a 10-minute recording that was circulated on social media and was later carried by the U.S.-based SITE Intelligence Group. It was the first recording from al-

Zawahri in almost a year.

The recording, which resembles previous audio clips released by the al-Qaida leader, eulogizes Mullah Omar, who sheltered al-Qaida in the years leading up to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks when the Taliban ruled Afghanistan. Osama bin Laden and his followers considered Mullah Omar the Commander of the Faithful, an ancient title once held by the successors of Islam's Prophet

Muhammad.

"He was an emir who defied the polytheists and the pagans," al-Zawahri said. He called Mullah Omar the first leader to establish a Muslim emirate after the fall of the Ottoman empire, and the recording includes a clip of bin Laden pledging allegiance to Mullah Omar.

Afghan authorities late last month announced that Mullah Omar, a reclusive leader almost never seen in

public, had died more than two years ago in a Pakistani hospital. The Taliban later confirmed his death and appointed his longtime deputy Mullah Akhtar Mansoor to succeed him.

But Mullah Omar's family has rejected the decision, and it appears to have widened a rift within the Taliban between those who favor Pakistan-brokered peace talks and those who want to continue waging their 14-year insurgency. □



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Greek government defends bailout deal ahead of vote

ELENA BECATOROS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

The Greek government defended its new bailout program in tumultuous parliamentary sessions Thursday, as Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras faced a rebellion in his governing Syriza party ahead of a vote on the deal.

The draft bill for the three-year rescue package worth about 85 billion euros (\$93 billion) in loans includes harsh spending cuts and tax hikes that Tsipras has said he has no option but to implement.

Lawmakers wrangled over the bill for about nine hours in an acrimonious parliamentary committee debate that began in the morning, with delays arising from amendments submitted to the original bill and procedural objections by those opposing the measures.

Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos stressed the urgency of the vote, with eurozone finance ministers to discuss the deal at a meeting Friday afternoon in Brussels. As the debate in parliament was set to last most of the night, with a vote early Friday, Tsipras spoke on the telephone late Thursday to French President Francois Hollande and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

Despite the repeated delays in Greece, lawmakers in Finland authorized the country's prime minister to finalize Greek bailout negotiations on behalf of his country — an indication that eurozone lenders were moving toward finalizing the deal.

The Syriza rebellion has left Tsipras dependent on opposition votes in parliament to pass legislation, and the bill is expected to win ap-

proval comfortably. Hundreds of anti-austerity protesters marched through Athens in anticipation of the plenary debate Thursday evening.

Tsipras' radical left party won elections in January on promises to repeal similar budget austerity imposed in return for Greece's two previous bailouts. His about-face, agreeing this week to tough terms with creditor negotiators from the European Central Bank, European Commission and International Monetary Fund, has led to outrage among hardliners that now threatens to split the party.

Former energy minister Panagiotis Lafazanis, a Syriza hardliner who lost his cabinet position last month after voting against another bailout-related bill, took a step toward a full split with his party Thursday, joining a group of another 12 left-wing politicians announcing they will create a new anti-bailout movement. He stopped short, however, of saying he was leaving his party.

His move "finalizes his decision, taken a while ago, to choose a different path than the government and Syriza," the government said in an emailed note.

The internal party problems have increased speculation, fanned by some Syriza members themselves, that Tsipras might have to call early elections as soon as September.

The deal still needs the approval of eurozone finance ministers and that of several other countries' parliaments, including Germany's. Germany, which was the largest single contributor to Greece's two previous bailouts, has been the country's harshest critic and has maintained a cautious stance. □



Members of the Communist-affiliated PAME labor union chant anti austerity slogans during a protest in central Athens, Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015. The Greek government defended its new bailout program in tumultuous parliamentary sessions Thursday, as it faced a rebellion in the governing Syriza party ahead of a vote on the deal. (AP Photo/Giannis Papanikos)

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Death toll rises to 50 in massive blasts at Chinese port

C. BODEEN

Associated Press

TIANJIN, China (AP) — The death toll from the fiery explosions at a warehouse of hazardous chemicals climbed Thursday to 50, and the Chinese government sent experts to the shattered and smoldering port to assess any environmental dangers from the spectacular blasts.

More than 700 people were injured and dozens were reported missing in the explosions shortly before midnight Wednesday that demolished a workers' dormitory, tossed shipping containers as if they were toy blocks and turned a fleet of 1,000 new cars into scorched metal husks. Windows were shattered for miles around by the shockwaves.

There was no indication of what caused the disaster in one of China's busiest ports, and authorities tried to keep a tight rein over information by keeping reporters well away from the site. Social media users complained their posts about it were deleted.

More than 1,000 firefight-



Smoke billows from the site of an explosion that reduced a parking lot filled with new cars to charred remains at a warehouse in northeastern China's Tianjin municipality, Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015. Huge explosions in the warehouse district sent up massive fireballs that turned the night sky into day in the Chinese port city of Tianjin, officials and witnesses said Thursday.

(AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

ers were sent to the mostly industrial zone in Tianjin, a petrochemical processing hub about 120 kilometers (75 miles) east of Beijing.

Tianjin is the 10th largest port in the world by container volume, according to the World Shipping Council, and the seventh-biggest in China. It handles vast amounts of metal ore,

coal, steel, cars and crude oil.

Ships carrying oil and "hazardous products" were barred from the port Thursday, the Tianjin Maritime Safety Administration said on its official microblog. It also said vessels were not allowed to enter the central port zone, which is near the blast site.

The municipal government, which gave the death toll of at least 50, said 701 people were injured, including 71 in serious condition. The Tianjin Port Group Co. said dozens of its employ-

ees were unaccounted for and a search is under way. Some migrant workers at the port may not be documented.

Authorities said the blasts started at the warehouse owned by Ruihai Logistics, a company that says it stores hazardous materials including flammable petrochemicals, sodium cyanide and toluene diisocyanate.

An initial explosion apparently triggered an even bigger one. The National Earthquake Bureau said the first blast was the

equivalent of 3 tons of TNT, and the second 21 tons. The enormous fireballs from the blasts rolled through a nearby parking lot, turning a fleet of 1,000 new cars into scorched metal husks. Zhang Siyu, who lives several kilometers (miles) from the blast site, said she ran from her home without her shoes because she initially thought it was an earthquake. "Only once I was outside did I realize it was an explosion. There was the huge fireball in the sky with thick clouds. Everybody could see it," she said.

Zhang said she could see wounded people weeping. She said she did not see anyone who had been killed, but "I could feel death." State media said senior management of the company had been detained, and that President Xi Jinping demanded severe punishment for anyone found responsible for the explosions.

There was no immediate sign of any toxic cloud in the air as firefighters brought the fire largely under control by morning. However, the Tianjin government suspended further firefighting to allow the team of experts to survey hazardous materials at the site, assess dangers to the environment and decide how best to proceed. □

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Russian FM hosts Syria opposition group

V. ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's foreign minister on Thursday hosted a delegation of the main Syrian opposition group, part of the Kremlin's new push for a mediation role in the Syrian conflict. Sergey Lavrov told the leaders of the Syrian National Coalition that Moscow was willing to "help all Syrians unite over the core task of preserving their country, ensuring stability and preventing it from becoming a hotbed of terrorism and other threats."

President Vladimir Putin launched Russia's new mediation effort in June when he met with Saudi Deputy Crown Prince and Defense

Minister Mohammed bin Salman in St. Petersburg. Lavrov has said that the Russian plan proposes that all forces opposing Islamic State extremists— including the Syrian opposition, the Syrian army, the Iraqi army and the Kurds — pool their efforts.

Moscow has been a key backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad, shielding it from the United Nations sanctions and continuing to provide it with weapons throughout a civil war that has dragged on for more than four years, leaving at least 250,000 dead and turning more than 4 million people into refugees.

Earlier this week, Lavrov met with his Saudi counter-

part for Syria-focused talks that highlighted continuing sharp differences about Assad's fate. While Lavrov called for including the Syrian government troops in a coalition fighting IS, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir rejected any role for Assad.

Earlier this year, Moscow hosted some members of the Syrian opposition for consultations, but the National Coalition has until now refused to visit Russia. Speaking before Thursday's talks with Lavrov, Coalition president Khaled Khoja told the Interfax news agency that Assad shouldn't be part of any future transitional government. □



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Venezuela frees 2nd prominent opponent in just over 24 hours



Beatriz Silva, 74, wears a sign that reads in Spanish: "In Venezuela, there's nothing" as she joins a protest in Caracas, Venezuela. A former Venezuelan defense minister turned staunch government critic was freed from prison early Thursday, making him the second prominent opposition leader to be freed in little more than 24 hours.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

FABIOLA SANCHEZ
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— A former Venezuelan defense minister turned staunch government critic was freed from prison early Thursday, making him the second prominent opposition leader to be freed in little more than 24 hours. A military tribunal granted retired Gen. Raul Baduel parole after he completed six years of a nearly eight-year sentence on corruption charges, his lawyer Omar Tosta told

The Associated Press. A short video of Baduel embracing loved ones was tweeted by his daughter after he was discharged from a prison where he's been held alongside Venezuela's most-recognized jailed opponent, Leopoldo Lopez. He left the hulking gray military prison outside of Caracas around midnight, and returned to his home in the coastal city of Maracay. "It was a huge surprise, a gift of life from God," said

his wife Cruz Maria Zambrano, adding that her husband was overjoyed. Baduel's release comes just 24 hours after Daniel Ceballos, the former mayor of the restive western city of San Cristobal, was granted house arrest on medical grounds while awaiting trial for his alleged role in inciting violence during last year's anti-government protests. The two surprise releases could signal a greater leniency on the part of President Nicolas Maduro's socialist administration, which has come under sharp fire from the U.S. over the imprisonment of some 75 anti-government activists on what human rights groups say are trumped-up charges meant to silence dissent.

Baduel drew close to Chavez in their days as army cadets in the 1970s, and with other loyalists, he helped restore the charismatic leftist to power following a brief 2002 coup. But he broke with his longtime friend in 2007, likening a referendum granting Chavez more power to a virtual coup.

In 2009, he was arrested on

corruption charges that he says were invented to punish him for defecting from the cause.

As part of his parole, Baduel will be required to present himself before a court every 30 days, and will be barred from speaking with reporters.

Ceballos, hours after being reunited with his family, shouted a statement to the press from a second floor window of a relative's apartment in an upscale part of Caracas, saying his surprise release represented a hopeful sign "that all political prisoners might be reunited with their families."

The 31-year-old leader went on a hunger strike together with Baduel and Lopez in June to demand the government release its

opponents and set a date for legislative elections.

The election date has now been set, and a handful of prisoners have been freed, but none before as well-known as Baduel or Ceballos.

Ceballos was arrested in March 2014 on civil rebellion charges related to his support of anti-government demonstrations in San Cristobal that helped ignite a nationwide protest movement. He will be bound by standard house arrest rules prohibiting him from speaking publicly, using social media and engaging in political activity. U.S. officials have made the release of the opposition leaders a key demand in ongoing talks aimed at normalizing diplomatic relations. □

Castro turns 89; says US has debt to Cuba

HAVANA (AP) — Fidel Castro marked his 89th birthday with a newspaper column Thursday repeating assertions that the U.S. owes socialist Cuba "numerous millions of dollars" for damages caused by its decades-long embargo. The brief essay came a day before an historic moment in U.S.-Cuba relations: Secretary of State John Kerry is to raise the Stars and Stripes over a restored U.S. Embassy in Havana, though the economic embargo legally re-

mains in effect.

The rapprochement after 54 years of formal diplomatic estrangement was engineered by Fidel's brother Raul, who took over Cuba's presidency after the elder Castro suffered a health crisis in 2006. Fidel Castro did not directly mention the restored relations, though he made several critical references to the U.S. He said Washington owes Cuba indemnifications "that rise to numerous millions of dollars" for damage caused by the

embargo.

He also repeated his criticism of the U.S. decision to stop swapping dollars for gold in 1971, a stand shared with some conservative economists. Castro has said in the past that such a move left the dollar alone as the world's measure of value for currencies. Castro came to power in 1959 following a revolution. Relations with the United States were broken in 1961 as Castro led Cuba rapidly into a socialist model allied with the Soviet Union. □

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US culture widespread in Cuba as ties resume

**A. RODRIGUEZ
M. WEISSENSTEIN**
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Even Cubans who don't speak a word of English eat "uncake" on their birthdays. They wear "los tennis" and

communist, anti-imperialist Cuba. But it will be far from the only one. Immaculately polished red granite letters spell out "Woolworth's" in the sidewalk outside a sparsely supplied government-run Ha-

strong and touched every aspect of life, from food to movies," said cultural critic Ciro Bianchi. "It has always persisted." Observers of the two countries say U.S.-Cuban cultural ties are about more than

brands and TV shows and music.

Fidel Castro and other Cuban leaders have long said they opposed the U.S. government, not its people. American influence is so present and unremarkable that when the government built dozens of state-run gas stations in the 1990s, it painted many with the pre-revolutionary English-language slogan "friendly service 24 hours" without raising eyebrows.

Freed from Spain in 1898, Cuba quickly became a virtual colony of the United States, its corrupt politics and oligarchical economy dominated by U.S. interests. From sugar to telephones to banks, most businesses were U.S. subsidiaries. The casinos and nightclubs that drew swarms of American tourists were owned by U.S. mobsters.

Cuba turned against Washington after Fidel Castro overthrew U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista in 1959. A generation of Cubans grew up with Russian cartoons, clothes and canned food. But the country never truly shook off its deep ties to North America. Bradbury is so revered in science fiction-loving Cuba that state television dedicated a lengthy report this week to the 60th anniversary of the author's "Marian Chronicles," a 1950 book about the colonization of Mars.

Even in the 1970s, at the peak of revolutionary fervor in Cuba, authorities allowed showings of Disney cartoons and American movies like the first two "Godfather" films, including the famous scenes in "Part II" showing Mafia meetings on the eve of Castro's takeover of the island. □



People walk over a Woolworth's the sign on the floor of the entrance of a Cuban state run store called Variedades, in Havana, Cuba, Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2015. The immaculately polished red granite letters show that the store was once a Woolworth's store in the years before the revolution.
(AP Photo/Desmond Boylan)

"bloomers." Their kids go crazy for Taylor Swift and "The Big Bang Theory." U.S. science fiction master Ray Bradbury has pride of place on their bookshelves beside revolutionary poet Jose Marti.

Far beyond the antique Chevys on its streets and the memorials to Ernest Hemingway, Cuba is a country whose language, music, literature and fashion are steeped in American influence despite a half-century of official hostility.

The U.S. flag that rises over the Havana waterfront at the symbolic reopening of the U.S. Embassy on Friday will instantly be the most powerful symbol of the American presence in

vana variety store. An "R" and a "K" poke out from behind the post-revolutionary Banco Metropolitano sign at what used to be the National City Bank of New York.

There's a national love of baseball, French fries and milkshakes. Cuba's strain of Caribbean Spanish is rich with borrowed American words. Some, such as the greetings "brother" and "man," are as current as the pirated pop culture consumed by the island's youth. Others are comically outdated, like "bloomers" for women's underwear or "tencens" for the shops that used to be 10-cent stores before the 1959 revolution.

"U.S. influence was very

shared tastes in sports and movies. The fact that the two countries remained culturally close through decades of conflict is likely to prove essential as the U.S. and Cuba move beyond the reestablishment of diplomatic relations symbolized by Friday's ceremony and enter a new phase of broader economic and political normalization.

U.S. cultural influence in Cuba is transmitted from child to parent, among cousins and schoolmates, through the hundreds of thousands of families and groups of friends divided by decades of emigration. Relatives and friends living in Florida, New Jersey and Texas return home with new expressions, clothing

Puerto Rico: 25 parrots get home to save them

DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Scientists transported 25 endangered Puerto Rican parrots to one of the U.S. territory's largest forests Thursday in a bid to save the island's last native parrot species.

The birds range from juveniles to mature adults and were placed in a large cage where they will learn survival skills for a year before being introduced into the wild at the Maricao state forest.

Natural Resources Secretary Carmen Guerrero said in a phone interview that the forest has the largest plant diversity on the island. "You can imagine how that translates into a buffet for our parrots," she said.

The arrival of the 25 parrots represents a local and federal effort to establish a third population of a bird that saw its numbers dwindle to only 13 in the early 1970s. Two other populations of the birds were earlier established in the Rio Abajo Nature Preserve in western Puerto Rico and in El Yunque, the only tropical rain forest in the U.S. National Forest system.

Those two breeding centers collectively boast nearly 400 parrots now, and another 108 parrots are believed to exist in the wild nearby thanks to an expanding conservation program that has seen 35 parrots released so far this year.

The parrots have red foreheads, turquoise feathers under their wings and grow to nearly a foot in length. They are known for their secrecy and usually mate for life, reproducing once a year. "At one time, it was among the 10 most endangered bird species in the world," said Tony Tooke, southern regional director for the U.S. Forest Service. There are currently no known parrots in Maricao, located deep in the mountains of Puerto Rico's southwest region, but scientists hope that will change soon. □

Man pleads guilty to Caribbean migrant smuggling

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP) — An elderly Frenchman has pleaded guilty to more than three dozen counts of migrant smuggling in the U.S. Virgin Islands. A statement from U.S. Attorney Ronald Sharpe

in the U.S. Caribbean territory said 71-year-old Alain Rene Leichtnam pleaded guilty this week in U.S. District Court on St. Thomas.

Agents with several U.S. law enforcement agencies intercepted his catamaran

off the island of St. John in early hours of April 29. They said Leichtnam was operating the vessel with 38 Cubans and one St. Lucian aboard. None of the passengers had any documents allowing them to en-

ter U.S. territory.

Sharpe says Leichtnam admitted transporting the migrants for financial gain.

Sentencing is scheduled for early December. The French citizen faces up to 10 years in prison. □



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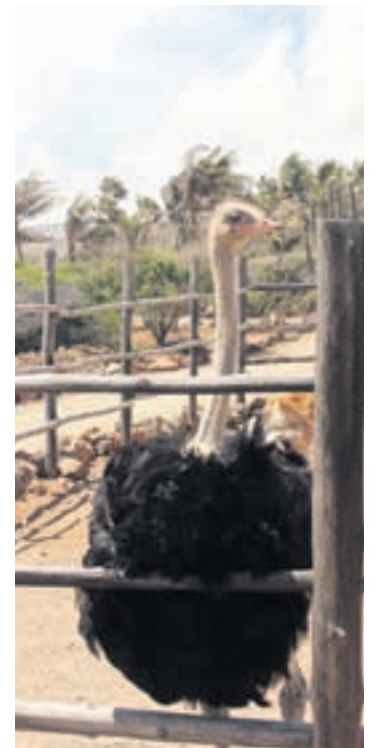
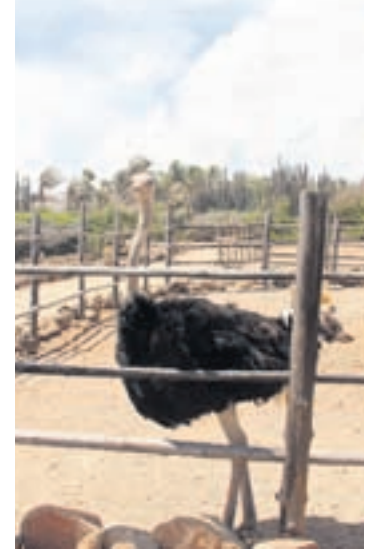
Visitors are encouraged to partake in a guided tour of the farm, inhabited by both ostriches and their flightless Australian relatives, emus. The tour provides the opportunity to learn about the natural behavior and survival instincts of these amazing creatures through detailed information as well as personal encounters with the birds.

A knowledgeable guide will introduce the adult emus and ostriches. You will learn about the ostrich's amazing speed as well as other defense mechanisms it uses against predators. Mating, rearing, and feeding habits will both surprise and amuse you. You will even have the opportunity to hand-feed

the not-so-shy creatures. Just watch out! Ostriches are ALWAYS hungry, and if you have food in your hands, you may quickly find yourself surrounded by a herd of curious critters.

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Marcos and Isabel Honored at the Tropicana Resort and Casino



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple as Ambassadors of Goodwill at the Tropicana Resort and Casino. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation

to guests who visit Aruba for 20-to-34 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Marcos and Mrs. Isabel Tawil from Buenos Aires, Argentina. This lovely couple loves Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restau-



rants, and of course the Tropicana Casino! Being on Aruba and staying at the Tropicana is like being in paradise for them, and the wonderful staff of the

resort is like family to them. The certificates were presented at the recently renovated Tropicana Casino by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tour-

ism Authority together with Ms. Jacky Feliciano, Mr. Harold de Koning, Sales Manager, and Mr. Richard Roy, GM at the Tropicana Resort and Casino. □



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Family Marut Honored by the Aruba Tourism Authority!



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice family of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the Playa Linda Beach Resort as

Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassador. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba



for 10-to-19 and 20-to-34 consecutive years. The honorees were Mrs. Ellen Marut Kacher as Goodwill Ambassador and her son and daughter Ryan and Kaitlyn Marut as Distinguished Visitors! The Marut Family, of Mon-

roe Township, New Jersey, are loyal members of the Playa Linda Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Playa

Linda is like being in paradise for them! The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mr. Rolando de Cuba representing the Playa Linda Beach Resort. □

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Nick Kyrgios, of Australia, serves to John Isner, of the United States, at the Rogers Cup tennis tournament Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015, in Montreal.

Associated Press

Kyrgios falls, day after insulting Wawrinka during match

MONTREAL (AP) — Nick Kyrgios tumbled out of the Rogers Cup on Thursday night, falling to John Isner a day after insulting French Open champion Stan Wawrinka during a match. The 16th-seeded Isner beat Kyrgios 7-5, 6-3 in the third-round match.

On Wednesday night, a court-side microphone picked up Kyrgios saying that fellow Australian player Thanasi Kokkinakis had slept with a player who is reportedly Wawrinka's girlfriend.

The ATP fined Nick Kyrgios \$10,000 on Thursday, the maximum fine allowed by the ATP rule book for incidents of verbal abuse or unsportsmanlike conduct. Also, the ATP fined Kyrgios an additional \$2,500 for unsportsmanlike conduct related to a comment made to a ball person during the match. The tour said Kyrgios has been served with a "Notice of Investigation," which begins a process to determine if his actions also merit further sanctions.

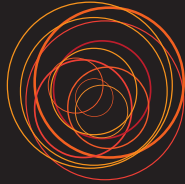


G'DAY MATE

Day near top of major leaderboard again


Jason Day, of Australia, hits a tee shot on the 17th hole during the first round of the PGA Championship golf tournament Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015, at Whistling Straits in Haven, Wis.

Associated Press



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Dustin Johnson sets the pace at Whistling Straits

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. (AP) —

Rory McIlroy rolled up the right leg of his pants to take on a risky shot out of the water. Jordan Spieth, who seems to never miss putts, couldn't make one.

Familiarity of the final major of the year came from Dustin Johnson. He was in the lead Thursday after the opening round of the PGA Championship, a spot he already has occupied after five of 13 rounds this year in the majors — just not on the day the trophy is awarded.

Bouncing back from a summer of disappointment, Johnson breezed his way to a 6-under 66 in moderate morning conditions at Whistling Straits and wound up with a one-shot lead over David Lingmerth of Sweden. Jason Day, who also knows about hard luck in the majors, and Matt Kuchar were in a large group at 68.

"We'll just have to see what happens," Johnson said. "It's only the first round. We've still got a lot of golf to play."

The main event was McIlroy (No. 1) and Spieth (No. 2), who have won four of the last five majors and played in the same group. Round 1 was a draw.

Both shot 71, a reasonable start considering the blustery conditions off Lake Michigan.

McIlroy, competing for the first time in 53 days because of an ankle injury, handled all of the par 5s even though one was just a par. But it was a big one. He pulled his third shot into the water and a double bogey looked likely. But his ball was sitting up in the water, so McIlroy rolled up his pant leg, splashed it out to 7 feet and saved par.



Dustin Johnson hits a drive on the 16th hole during the first round of the PGA Championship golf tournament Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015, at Whistling Straits in Haven, Wis.

Associated Press

"The only thing I was trying not to do was get my feet wet," McIlroy said. "Because if the water gets through this shoe, then the tape gets wet and then that would be a little more than just sort of annoying or uncomfortable for the rest of the day. But it was fine. It was a little bit deeper on the right side, so I just rolled my right trouser leg up and it was fine. I just had to remember to hit it hard. And I was very fortunate to escape with a par there." That shot made for good TV. Good for his soul was getting that first tee shot out of the way, and especially the 3-wood he hit pure as ever onto the green at the par-5 second that led to birdie.

"That was full bore, as good as I can do," McIlroy said. Spieth was far more boring in opening with 10 pars, and he was far more irritated. The Masters and U.S. Open champion had one birdie chance after

another on the front nine and missed them all, trying to get the speed right and wondering how much the wind would affect it.

"I guessed wrong," he said. And then he started to press, and it nearly cost him. He wasted an easy birdie chance on the short 10th hole by chipping 12 feet by the hole. He three-putted from about 15 feet on the par-5 11th for a bogey. After going just long of the par-3 12th, he had to play a chip because of a sprinkler head in his line.

The chip came out hot, and Spieth figured it would have gone some 12 feet by the hole. Spieth said he was pleading it for it to hit the pin, if nothing else to keep it near the hole. It hit straight on and dropped for a birdie he badly needed.

"We really battled back after 10 and 11, which were disappointing holes for me, to salvage an under par round really stay in this tour-

namment," Spieth said. "If I didn't get that good break on 12, it could have been a different story the rest of the round."

The wind began to blow hard over the final hour of Johnson's round, and it showed in the scores. Of

the 14 players who broke 70, Lingmerth and Scott Piercy (68) were the only ones who faced the tougher afternoon conditions.

Lingmerth also got off to a roaring start at the British Open with a 29 on the front nine (and a 40 on the back). Starting on the back nine, which was the easier at Whistling Straits, he hit a pure iron into the par-3 17th and had a good look at birdie to reach 6 under. He couldn't help but think of St. Andrews.

"It did cross my mind, but that was it," Lingmerth said. He missed the putt, briefly tied Johnson with a birdie on the par-5 fifth hole, gave it back on the next hole and closed with pars. Tiger Woods might be one day away from the end of his season. Woods managed only two birdies, both on the par 5s, in the calmer conditions and never looked good with the putter in opening with a 75. In the four majors this year, he is 18-over par in the opening round with a scoring average of 76. □

Father of Billy Hurley III dies of self-inflicted wound

**BY BEN NUCKOLS
ASSOCIATED PRESS**

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The father of PGA Tour player Billy Hurley III has died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, nearly a month after he left home, Hurley announced on Thursday. Willard Hurley Jr., 61, killed himself Wednesday in Virginia, according to a statement released by his son's management company. A statement from Reston Bible Church in Reston, Virginia, where the elder

Hurley served as missions director, also confirmed his death.

Billy Hurley broke down in tears while announcing two weeks ago during the Quicken Loans National tournament that his father was missing. He was later found at a public library in Texas, watching his son play golf on a computer. He told police only that he had been traveling.

Billy Hurley, 33, is with his family in Leesburg, Virginia, where he grew up. □



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Lindsey Vonn injures ankle in New Zealand training crash

QUEENSTOWN, New Zealand (AP) — Lindsey Vonn has another injury to worry about after fracturing an ankle bone in a training crash in New Zealand. "Unfortunately I crashed today and have a small fracture in my ankle," the American skier said on Twitter. "Headed home now but will keep u posted." She was heading home to Vail, Colorado, to have the ankle examined further. It is the latest setback for Vonn, who returned from serious

leg injuries to break the all-time record for victories on the women's World Cup last season. She also won her seventh World Cup downhill title. Vonn, who was spending a second week in New Zealand for her first on-snow training ahead of the new season, did not say which ankle was damaged. She used the hashtag "minor setback" in her tweet, indicating she didn't think the injury was very serious. The World Cup season

kicks off with a giant slalom race on Oct. 24 but the first speed events — Vonn's specialty — don't start until a month later. The 30-year-old Vonn has said she will continue racing through the 2018 Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. □



In this March 19, 2015, file photo, Lindsey Vonn holds the alpine ski, women's World Cup super-G and downhill's disciplines trophies as she celebrates on the podium at the World Cup finals in Meribel, France.

Associated Press

EA Sports drops Patrick Kane from NHL 16 promotional plans

JOHN WAWROW
AP Hockey Writer

EA Sports dropped Chicago Blackhawks star Patrick Kane from promoting and appearing on the cover of its NHL 16 video game because he is under police investigation. The popular video game company announced its decision on its Twitter account Wednesday. "In light of the ongoing investigation involving Patrick Kane, he will no longer be a spokesperson for the launch of EA Sports NHL 16," the company said. "He will not appear on the EA Sports NHL 16 cover nor participate in other EA Sports NHL 16 promotional activities." Kane was to appear alongside Blackhawks captain Jonathan Toews in what was supposed to be the first time two NHL players have been featured on the cover. In June, the two stars were key players in lead-

ing the Blackhawks to their third Stanley Cup championship in six years. Kane's lawyer, Paul Cambria, and agent, Pat Brisson, did not return messages seeking comment. EA Sports' decision comes less than a week after Hamburg police announced Kane is under investigation for something that may have happened at the player's offseason home outside Buffalo on Aug. 2. Police Chief Gregory Wickett would only say that police are gathering information and awaiting forensic results. Police are looking into something that happened between Kane and a woman in her 20s, a person familiar with the investigation said earlier this week on condition of anonymity because authorities have not revealed that detail. It's unclear how much Kane was to be paid for promoting NHL 16. □

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AL Capsules

Iwakuma no-hitter steers Mariners past Orioles

The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Hisashi Iwakuma has become the second Japanese-born pitcher in major league history to throw a no-hitter, leading the Seattle Mariners to a 3-0 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday.

Iwakuma struck out seven and walked three in throwing the first no-hitter by an American League pitcher in nearly three years. He joins Hideo Nomo, who threw two no-nos, as the only Japanese-born pitchers to accomplish the feat. Iwakuma is the fourth pitcher to throw a no-hitter this season, joining Philadelphia's Cole Hamels — prior to his trade to Texas — Washington's Max Scherzer and San Francisco's Chris Heston.

Iwakuma is the first American League pitcher to throw a no-hitter since teammate Felix Hernandez tossed a perfect game against the Tampa Bay Rays on Aug. 15, 2012. Baltimore starter Kevin Gausman (2-4) took the loss.

BLUE JAYS 10, ATHLETICS 3

TORONTO (AP) — Toronto surged to the top of the AL East with its 10th straight win, beating Oakland behind a pair of three-run homers from Chris Colabello and Justin Smoak.

The Blue Jays trailed the Yankees by six games on July 31. But after making several bold trades, they have gone on a streak that included a sweep of New York, losing only once since Troy Tulowitzki joined the team to move a half-game up in the division.

Josh Donaldson had two hits and two RBIs, boosting his major league-leading total to 85.

R.A. Dickey (7-10) won his

won his fourth straight decision, allowing three runs and six hits in six innings.

Right-hander Aaron Brooks (1-1) was hit hard by the Blue Jays for the second time in his career.

Toronto, which won 11

to Brett Gardner and Chase Headley in the eighth, but Cody Allen got Alex Rodriguez to hit into a double play to end the inning. Salazar gave up one run in 7 1/3 innings.

Cody Allen earned his 23rd

ner Taylor Featherston to race home from third and tie the game at 2 on Conor Gillaspie's grounder to first.

TIGERS 7, ROYALS 4

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Ian Kinsler doubled home two runs and Detroit bat-

Neftali Feliz (2-3), the former Texas Rangers closer, picked up the victory, retiring all three batters he faced. Bruce Rondon worked the ninth to log his second save.

TWINS 11, RANGERS 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Aaron Hicks had four of Minnesota's 17 hits, Miguel Sano homered twice and Mike Pelfrey picked up his first win since June as the Twins routed Texas.

Sano's second home run drove in three in the fourth inning and reached the upper deck down the left field line. It gave the Twins a 7-0 lead.

Hicks got the Twins going with a leadoff homer in the first. He jumped on a 2-0 fastball from Nick Martinez (7-7) and drove it 432 feet off the facing of the upper deck in right-center for his seventh homer of the season. Pelfrey (6-7) had gone 0-5 with 6.22 ERA in his last 10 starts, but he was sharp on Wednesday, scattering four hits and one walk while striking out four in seven innings.

RAYS 9, BRAVES 6

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Curt Casali capped a six-run seventh inning with a two-run homer and Tampa Bay rallied for a victory over Atlanta.

Casali had just one hit in 26 at-bats since consecutive two-homer games against Detroit on July 27-28.

Tampa Bay has won four in a row, including three when trailing 3-0. The Rays also had comeback wins Saturday and Sunday over the New York Mets.

Pedro Ciriaco homered for the first time in more than two years and tied a career high with four RBIs for the Braves, who have lost 14 of 20. □



Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Hisashi Iwakuma is hugged by first baseman Logan Morrison, right, after the final out of Iwakuma's no-hitter against the Baltimore Orioles in a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2015, in Seattle. The Mariners won 3-0. Associated Press

straight in June, is the first team with two winning streaks of 10 games or more in single season since Atlanta in 2013. The last AL team to do it was Kansas City in 1977.

INDIANS 2, YANKEES 1

CLEVELAND (AP) — Danny Salazar pitched neatly into the eighth inning, and Cleveland dropped New York out of first place in the AL East.

The Yankees, who have lost five straight, trail surging Toronto by a half-game in the division and fell out of the top spot for the first time since July 2. New York has scored six runs in its losing streak.

Abraham Almonte's RBI single broke a 1-all tie in the sixth and Cleveland won its fourth straight.

Salazar (10-6) was pulled after issuing one-out walks

save.

CC Sabathia (4-9) allowed two runs in six innings.

WHITE SOX 3, ANGELS 2, 13 INNINGS

CHICAGO (AP) — Avisail Garcia's line-drive double to the wall with one out in the 13th inning drove in Jose Abreu from first base and lifted Chicago to a win over Los Angeles to finish a three-game sweep.

Matt Albers (2-0), Chicago's sixth reliever, pitched two scoreless innings for the win.

Cesar Ramos (2-1), the Angels' sixth pitcher out the bullpen, gave up a single to Abreu and then Garcia's double to left-center as Los Angeles dropped its ninth straight on the road. This one went to extra innings when Abreu botched a play at first in the ninth, allowing Angels pinch run-

ted around in a four-run eighth inning to defeat Kansas City.

The loss snapped the Royals' eight-game home winning streak, their longest since winning their first 11 games in 2003 at Kauffman Stadium.

Royals right-hander Edinson Volquez (11-7) had retired 13 straight batters entering the eighth, which James McCann led off with a single. Volquez walked Anthony Gose, and Jose Iglesias had an infield single to load the bases with none out.

Kinsler doubled down the left field line to score McCann and Gose to finish Volquez's night. J.D. Martinez's single scored Iglesias. Kinsler scored on Collins' fielder's choice grounder as Detroit sent 10 to the plate in the inning.

NL Capsules

Kershaw reaches 200 Ks in Dodgers' 3-0 win over Nats

The Associated Press

DODGERS 3, NATIONALS 0

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Clayton Kershaw tied Sandy Koufax's franchise record of six straight 200-strikeout seasons while tossing eight scoreless innings, and NL West-leading Los Angeles defeated Washington.

Kershaw (10-6) took a perfect game bid into the sixth inning, when Michael Taylor doubled to deep center field. Kershaw retired the next two batters on grounders to end the inning.

The 27-year-old left-hander struck out the side in the second to equal the mark set by Koufax from 1961-66. Koufax and Tom Seaver (1968-76) are the only pitchers in modern NL history to accomplish the feat in six or more consecutive seasons.

Kenley Jansen retired the side in the ninth to earn his 22nd save in 23 chances. Jordan Zimmermann (8-8) nearly matched Kershaw, giving up two hits and one run in seven innings. He struck out a season-high nine, including Adrian Gonzalez three times, and walked one.

METS 3, ROCKIES 0

NEW YORK (AP) — Jacob deGrom conceded only two hits and struck out 10 in seven innings, pitching New York past Colorado.

Yoenis Cespedes hit his first home run for the surging Mets, who have won 10 of 12. Juan Uribe stroked an RBI double in the fourth and Michael Cuddyer followed with a run-scoring single on a night when both players reached 1,500 career hits. Surprise leaders in the NL East, the Mets (62-52) matched their season high at 10 games over .500. They handed Colorado its ninth defeat in a row at Citi Field since 2013 — after the Rockies won eight straight at the ballpark the previous two years.

New York improved to 41-18 at home, surpassing its 2014 win total (40) in the cozy stadium.

Last season's NL Rookie of

the Year, deGrom (11-6) entered with the second-lowest ERA in the National League at 2.13. He finished with his eighth career double-digit strikeout game and fourth this season. Jeurys Familia got his 32nd save.

Jorge De La Rosa (7-5) gave up two runs and four hits over six innings for the last-place Rockies.

CARDINALS 4, PIRATES 2

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Yadier Molina tripled in the go-ahead run in the sixth inning when right fielder Gregory Polanco missed an attempted shoe-top catch and Michael Wacha got his 14th win to tie for the major league high as St. Louis beat Pittsburgh.

The game didn't live up to the anticipated marquee pitching matchup between Wacha (14-4) and Gerrit Cole (14-6), both of whom were gone by the seventh inning. Seattle's Felix Hernandez also has 14 wins. St. Louis gift-wrapped a run, too, when center fielder Randal Grichuk badly misplayed an attempted diving catch on Andrew McCutchen's RBI triple that tied it at 2 in the fifth. Grichuk landed early and bounced as the ball rolled past him to the wall. Kevin Siegrist worked two perfect innings and Trevor Rosenthal finished for his 35th save in 37 chances.

CUBS 3, BREWERS 2, 10 INNINGS

CHICAGO (AP) — Miguel Montero homered in the bottom of the 10th inning to give Chicago a victory over Milwaukee for the Cubs' sixth straight win and 12th in 13 games.

Montero, who allowed a couple wild pitches to get past him in the ninth as the Brewers rallied to tie the score, led off the 10th with a solo blast to left field off Michael Blazek (5-3).

Tommy Hunter (3-2) pitched a scoreless 10th to get the win.

Kris Bryant homered and Anthony Rizzo made a circus catch falling into the

stands to lead the keep the Cubs surging.

Ryan Braun went 3 for 4 with a home run for the Brewers.

ASTROS 2, GIANTS 0

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Colby Rasmus homered to lead off the seventh inning to help Scott Feldman earn his first win in more than two months, and Houston held on to beat San Francisco.

Jed Lowrie also homered for the Astros, who stumble back to Minute Maid Park with a slimmer AL West division lead after going 2-7 on their nine-game road trip.

Feldman (5-5) missed 45 games earlier this season with a torn meniscus and had been winless in four starts since coming off the disabled list in July. He combined with four relievers on the five-hit shutout.

The Astros right-hander — winless since May 26 — gave up four hits over six innings, walked one and struck out four while allowing only one runner past second base.

Luke Gregerson pitched the ninth for his 23rd save.

Giants starter Chris Heston (11-7) allowed one run and over 6 1/3 innings.

REDS 7, PADRES 3

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Rookie Raisel Iglesias pitched six strong innings and Joey Votto scored the go-ahead run on a balk by James Shields and later homered to lead Cincinnati to a victory against San Diego.

Iglesias (3-4) retired 16 straight from the end of the first inning through the sixth to help the Reds avoid a three-game sweep. He allowed three runs and six hits while striking out eight and walking one. He had lost four of his previous five decisions.

Votto hit a two-run homer — his 20th — off Frank Garces with one out in the ninth. Votto had three hits and drove in three runs.

Shields (8-5), who signed a \$75 million, four-year contract as a free agent in February, has just one win in his last 13 starts. □



Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw throws against the Washington Nationals during the first inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2015, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

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Miguel Cotto, Canelo Alvarez finalize Nov. 21 bout in Vegas

AP Sports

LAS VEGAS (AP) -- Miguel Cotto and Saul "Canelo" Alvarez agreed Thursday to fight Nov. 21 at the Mandalay Bay Events Center. The fighters' camps have spent several months negotiating the HBO pay-per-view bout, which will be among the year's biggest events in boxing. The fight also is the latest chapter in the long-running rivalry between boxers from Puerto Rico and Mexico.

"Both Cotto and Canelo want it, and the fans have been asking for it," said Oscar De La Hoya, Alvarez's promoter at Golden Boy. "We are pleased to be working with Roc Nation (Cotto's promoter) to make this fight a reality for the fans. It will have everything that the fans want to see in boxing, and that's action and intensity."

Cotto (40-4, 33 KOs) is the WBC middleweight champion after beating Sergio Martinez last year. He is the first Puerto Rican fighter to win titles in four weight classes, and he has revitalized his long career



Miguel Cotto works out for the media at Everlast Lab on June 3, 2014 in Hoboken, New Jersey.

with three straight victories since teaming up with trainer Freddie Roach.

"In my era, Canelo is just another name," Cotto said. "Bring another big name to my record, that's what I see. ... Everybody knows what a fight between a Mexican and Puerto Rican means for boxing. People can expect the same from us."

Alvarez (45-1-1, 32 KOs) also has won three straight fights since losing his WBC 154-pound title to Floyd Mayweather Jr. in 2013.

Alvarez has established himself as one of the top

young stars in boxing and likely the most popular active Mexican fighter, earning numerous impressive victories during his rise. After failing to finalize a bout with Cotto for May, he stopped James Kirkland in spectacular fashion in the third round instead.

"It was a little long, the process," Alvarez said. "But that's usual or common when there's fights at that level. I never lost faith that it was going to happen. ... I have many more fights to come, but this is one of the ones that I've been craving and wanting so bad. □"



Serena Williams, of the United States, returns to Andrea Petkovic, of Germany, at the Rogers Cup tennis tournament Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015, in Toronto.

Associated Press

Serena Williams advances in Rogers Cup in Toronto

TORONTO (AP) — Top-ranked Serena Williams advanced to the Rogers Cup quarterfinals Thursday night, beating 16th-seeded Andrea Petkovic of Germany 6-3, 6-2.

"I think I served better," Williams said. "It was a big difference. I still think I have a tremendous amount of improvement to do off the ground and everywhere

else."

Williams won titles in Toronto titles in 2001, 2011 and 2013. The 21-time Grand Slam singles champion will face Italy's Roberta Vinci, a 6-4, 6-3 winner over Russia's Daria Gavrilova.

Second-seeded Simona Halep of Romania also advanced, outlasting 13th-seeded Angelique Kerber of Germany 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 in hot afternoon conditions.

"I did well in the last game," Halep said. "I said, 'I have to win it because I cannot move anymore.'"

Halep will face sixth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, a 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 winner over Alize Cornet of France. In the late match, fifth-seeded Ana Ivanovic of Serbia played Slovenia's Polona Hercog. Unseeded Belinda Bencic topped Sabine Lisicki 6-1, 1-6, 7-6 (3) to keep her run going. The 20th-ranked player from Switzerland opened the tournament with a victory over slumping Canadian Eugenie Bouchard and followed it with an upset win over fifth-ranked Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark.

Bencic will play the Ivanovic-Hercog winner.

Also, 15th-seeded Sara Errani of Italy beat Belarus' Victoria Azarenka 7-5, 6-3, and Ukraine's Lesia Tsurenko beat Germany's Carina Witthoeft 6-3, 6-4. □

Kyrgios

Continued from Page 17

Earlier, top-ranked Novak Djokovic beat American Jack Sock 6-2, 6-1.

Djokovic took only 54 minutes to finish off the 35th-ranked Sock.

"I never played him before, so it took me some time to figure out what his patterns are," Djokovic said. "I've watched him many times before, but it's different standing on the court."

The Serb, the tournament champion in 2007, 2011 and 2012, has won 50 of 53 matches this year.

Second-seed Andy Murray also advanced, beating Luxembourg's Gilles Muller 6-3, 6-2. The Scot broke Muller's serve four times in the 65-minute match.

In the night session, seventh-seeded Rafael Nadal of Spain faced Russia's Mikhail Youzhny, and

fourth-seeded Kei Nishikori of Japan met Belgium's David Goffin.

Djokovic shut out Sock in the first game. With Djokovic leading the first set 3-2, Sock hit a ball long on break point. Djokovic broke Sock's serve again in the final game to take the set.

"The turning point was the 3-2 game when I made a break," Djokovic said. "After that I just felt in control of the match. I was returning very well. I neutralized his serve, which is one of his biggest weapons."

In the second set, Sock made another unforced error on break point to go down 3-1. Djokovic started the final game of the second set with a beautiful drop shot, and Sock sent his return long on triple match point.

Djokovic will face Latvia's Ernests Gulbis in the quar-



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, serves to Jack Sock, of the United States, during the Rogers Cup men's tennis tournament in Montreal, Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015.

Associated Press

terfinals. Gulbis beat American Donald Young 6-4, 6-4. Also, France's Jeremy

Chardy beat Croatia's Ivo Karlovic 4-6, 7-6 (1), 6-4. □

2 jumbo phones from Samsung ahead of expected new iPhone

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Samsung has unveiled two new Android smartphones with jumbo screens as it seeks to recapture some of the sales lost to Apple after larger iPhones came out last year.

Samsung said Thursday that the new Galaxy Note 5 and S6 Edge Plus will start shipping Aug. 21 in the U.S. and Canada. Usually, Note phones don't come out until well after Apple's new iPhone models in September. The timing reflects a shift in fortunes for a company that pioneered jumbo phones with the original Note in 2011. Now, Samsung needs to beat Apple to the punch, or risk seeing its products drowned out by all the attention on the iPhone, IDC analyst Ramon Llamas said. The new phones from Samsung have screens measuring 5.7 inches diagonally, the same as last year's Note 4, yet both are lighter and thinner. They are comparable to Apple's 5.5-inch iPhone 6 Plus, the larger of the two new iPhones. Samsung's Galaxy S6 and S6 Edge phones, which are closer in size to the regular iPhone 6, came out in April. The Note 5 will cost \$696 to \$740 without a contract, depending on the carrier. The Edge Plus will cost about \$75 more. The iPhone 6 Plus sells for about \$750. T-Mobile is throwing in a year of Netflix with both phones, while Sprint is giving away a low-end Samsung tablet with a two-year contract. Advance orders begin in the U.S. on Thursday. Samsung Electronics Co. also said its Samsung Pay mobile payment service will debut in its home country of South Korea on Aug. 20. Testing in the U.S. will begin Aug. 25, with a formal launch on Sept. 28. Although there's competition from Apple Pay and Google's upcoming Android Pay, Samsung is hoping its payments system will catch on with the inclusion of a technology that mimics the old-school, magnetic signals from credit-



In this Aug. 6, 2015, photo, a Samsung employee displays the new Galaxy S6 Edge Plus in New York. Samsung said Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015, that the new Galaxy Note 5 and S6 Edge Plus will start shipping Aug. 21.

card swipes. That allows it to work with a wider range of merchants, though it still won't work everywhere cards are accepted. Samsung also teased an upcoming smartwatch, the Gear S2. It will have a round face, rather than the rectangular design in Apple Watch and previous Samsung watches. A video from Samsung suggests snazzy graphics to rival Apple Watch. More details will come at the IFA tech show in Berlin next month. As for the phones, Samsung is looking to play to its strengths.

GALAXY NOTE 5

Though it appeals to a niche audience, the Note is popular for including a stylus to take notes and annotate images on the screen. The update provides quicker access to apps and features that use the stylus. A clicking mechanism makes the stylus easier to pull out. One new feature ends the need to print out and rescanned electronic forms to sign or fill out. Just write on the PDF document directly before saving and sending. Screenshots can get annoying when you're just snapping what's visible on the screen. An article or list

of directions you're trying to save might take four or five shots. A new feature called scroll capture combines all those shots into one image, though you still need to snap them one section at a time.

GALAXY S6 EDGE PLUS

The screens on Samsung's Edge phones are curved

on both sides. The feature proved popular in this spring's S6 Edge, which used one of those sides for quick access to friends and other frequent contacts. Now, you can use it for quick access to favorite apps, too.

There won't be a stylus, though, as last year's Note Edge phone had.

Associated Press

COMMON TO BOTH PHONES

The new phones incorporate the improved camera technology found in this spring's S6 phones. Added is live streaming of video you're capturing, a practice made popular by Meerkat and Twitter's Periscope apps. Samsung's video will appear on YouTube. The front cameras take sharper selfies, at 5 megapixels rather than 3.7. The new phones also borrow design elements from the S6. They sport aluminum frames and glass backs rather than plastic. The back of the Note 5 is slightly curved for a better grip, while the Edge gets its curve on the front. Either way, it doesn't feel as boxy as the regular S6.

Borrowing another page from Apple's playbook, the phones are coming out just a week after they are announced. It used to take Samsung a month or longer.

THE LANDSCAPE

After the larger iPhones came out, Samsung could no longer proclaim to have "The Next Big Thing." □

Dell to sell Google Chromebook tailored for corporate users

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Google's latest Chromebook laptop will be specially designed for corporate customers in an effort to get more workers off machines powered by Microsoft's dominant Windows software.

The Chromebook unveiled Thursday will be made by Dell and will go on sale Sept. 17. Prices will range from \$400 to \$900, a step up from a line of bare-bones Chromebooks that have been selling for as low as \$150 since Google teamed up with Hisense and Haier to make those devices. The cheap Chromebooks have helped make the laptops popular in classrooms, but they haven't made many inroads in offices. Google Inc. is trying to win

over corporate customers with the Dell Chromebook 13, which offers more flexibility to run a variety of apps that haven't been easily accessible on previous Chromebooks. The laptops also offer more controls for corporate administrators to limit access and set rules for how workers can use them. Apple also has been trying to boost corporate sales of its iPad tablet in a year-old partnership with business technology specialist IBM Corp. and a wide variety of office app makers. Microsoft, meanwhile, is pinning its hopes on Windows 10, a recently released version of the operating system designed to run smoothly on personal computers, tablets and smartphones.

Various PC manufacturers that building Windows machines for decades have been working with Google to design lightweight laptops running on the Chrome operating system since 2011. The new machine from Dell joins Google's line-up of other high-end, business-focused devices that include the Asus Chromebook Flip and Chromebook Pixel. The Chromebooks will remain a part of Google later this year after the company splinters under an umbrella organization called Alphabet Inc. that will oversee a hodgepodge of businesses and experimental projects delving into medical research, city management, drone delivery and driverless cars. □

Nestle net profit, sales down slightly in first half of year

PARIS (AP) — Food and drinks giant Nestle says sales and net profit declined slightly in the first half due to currency fluctuations and a recall of Maggi noodles in India.

The Swiss company behind Nescafe, Stouffer's, Haagen Dazs and Perrier said Thursday that sales drifted

to 42.84 billion Swiss francs (\$43.70 billion) from 42.98 billion francs a year earlier. Net profit fell 2.5 percent to 4.52 billion francs.

In a statement, CEO Paul Bulcke called the first-half results "solid even in difficult circumstances" and said Nestle S.A. was confirming its outlook for growth in the

full year. Revenues were dented by appreciation of the Swiss currency and the withdrawal of Maggi noodles in India earlier this year after government tests found lead above legal levels. The Indian government is seeking damages from Nestle India, accusing it of unfair trade practices

and false labeling, an official said Wednesday.

"In India, our withdrawal of Maggi noodles resulted in negative organic growth which will continue into the second half," the company statement said. "We are engaging fully with the authorities as we work to re-launch the product."

In a conference call, Chief Financial Officer Francois-Xavier Roger said the group's results took a hit of 66 million Swiss francs during the first half because of the Maggi recall. He also pointed to "difficult" circumstances in China amid slowing economic growth. □

Wall Street ends mixed as China's currency stabilizes

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The anxiety that rattled markets earlier this week dissipated Thursday as China's central bank calmed concerns that the country's currency would continue its slide. Major markets in Europe and Asia made gains, while the U.S. stock market finished with a slight loss.

Officials from China's central bank defended recent moves to loosen the government's grip on its currency, saying that the yuan will eventually rebound from its recent fall. There is "no basis for persistent and substantial devaluation," said a deputy central bank governor, Zhang Xiaohui. The yuan is close to "market levels" after two days of sharp drops, Zhang said. Beijing's surprise devaluation of its currency shook markets around the world this week, upending stocks, commodities and currencies. "I think the central bankers have given people a reason to believe they're not that worried,"

said Jason Pride, director of investment strategy at Glenmede, a money management firm. "That's why we're seeing some recovery today."

The major U.S. stock indexes spent much of Thursday changing course. They fell in the morning, climbed higher in the afternoon then drifted lower in the final hour of trading.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 2.66 points, or 0.1 percent, to close at 2,083.39.

The Dow Jones industrial gained 5.74 points, less than 0.1 percent, to 17,408.25 and the Nasdaq composite lost 10.83 points, or 0.2 percent, to 5,033.56. "This week it has really been all about China's move and trying to interpret what its broader impact might be," said Stephen Freedman, senior investment strategist at UBS Wealth Management. "Now it seems cooler heads are prevailing. People are saying, 'Maybe this might not be as big of a deal as feared.'"

A handful of big companies turned in quarterly results. The department-store

ing quarterly results that topped analysts' expectations after the market

stock gained 80 cents, or 3 percent, to \$28.70, the biggest gain of any com-



Houlihan Lokey, Inc. CEO Scott Beiseron, center, rings a ceremonial bell as his company's stock begins trading during its IPO, on the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday Aug. 13, 2015.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

chain Kohl's reported quarterly sales and earnings that fell short of analysts' estimates. The news knocked its stock down \$5.39, or 9 percent, to \$56.11. Cisco Systems surged after post-

closed on Wednesday. The maker of computer networking equipment credited rising revenue from selling data-center servers and its collaboration with other businesses. Cisco's

pany in the Dow. Major Asian benchmarks finished higher after a two-day slump. Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 1 percent, and South Korea's Kospi gained 0.4 percent. □

US business stockpiles see biggest boost in 2 years

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. businesses boosted their stockpiles in June by the largest amount in more than two years.

Businesses increased their stockpiles by 0.8 percent in June, the biggest increase since January 2013, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

Economists are hoping that strong gains in employment over the past year will help boost consumer

spending in the months ahead, encouraging businesses to keep building their inventories. If consumer demand doesn't rise, businesses could start cutting back on restocking, which would be a drag on the economy.

Sales rose a modest 0.2 percent. After seven months of declines, sales have now risen for four straight months. In a separate report Thursday, the government said that retail sales posted a solid gain of

0.6 percent in June.

The overall economy grew at an annual rate of 2.3 percent in the April-June quarter after meager growth of 0.6 percent in the first quarter. On the basis of the strong inventories jump in June, many economists revised up their estimate for second quarter growth. Analysts at JPMorgan boosted their estimate for second quarter growth to 3.4 percent, up from a previous 3.2 percent.

While higher inventories

could mean less economic growth in the future, JPMorgan analysts said they were keeping their third quarter growth estimate unchanged at 2.5 percent for now. But analysts at Wells Fargo said in a research note that "a slower pace of inventory accumulation in the second half could become a significant headwind" for the economy. The stockpile report covers inventories held by manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers.

The June expansion left the ratio of inventories to sales at 1.37, meaning it would take 1.37 months for stockpiles to be depleted at the June sales pace. That is the highest level for inventories since June 2009, the month the Great Recession ended.

Economists are forecasting growth will be supported in the second half of this year by further strong employment gains which will give consumers more incentive to increase spending. □

US retail sales rose in July, aided by autos and restaurants

J. BOAK

A. D'INNOCENZIO

AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Americans bought more cars, restaurant meals and building supplies in July, a rise in spending that points to steady economic growth anchored by an improving job market.

Retail sales climbed 0.6 percent last month after a flat reading in June, the Commerce Department said Thursday.

July's increase suggests that the combination of solid hiring and cheaper gasoline is contributing to rising consumer confidence and spending after a muted start to 2015. Greater retail sales could help boost overall economic growth because consumer spending accounts for the bulk of U.S. economic activity.

"This report looks solid after a run of disappointing numbers," said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics.

Revisions in the report also

led economists to project stronger overall economic growth.

A crucial sales category that excludes gasoline, autos, building materials and food services rose 0.3 percent in July, as sales totals were revised upward for May and June. This increase led several economists to project that the economy grew at an annual pace of roughly 3 percent during the second quarter, as opposed to the 2.3 percent estimate announced last month by the government.

Purchases at auto dealers rose 1.4 percent in July, while restaurants and building materials stores both recorded a 0.7 percent gain. Shopping also improved at furniture stores, sporting goods retailers and clothiers.

Even gas station sales increased in July, although lower prices at the pump have generated a 15.2 percent drop in sales over the past year.

Not all sectors improved last month. Sales waned



Shoppers check out at a Wal-Mart Supercenter store in Springdale, Ark. The Commerce Department released retail sales data for July on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015.

(AP Photo/Danny Johnston)

at electronics and department stores, while spending at grocers was flat.

This reflects a broader change in the economy as shoppers are shifting away from large malls to online retailers, while generally spending less on traditional merchandise like cloth-

ing. And when they're at stores, shoppers are increasingly fixated on finding bargains. Department store chains Macy's and Kohl's both reported shortfalls in profits and sales for the May-July quarter. That doesn't bode well for the rest of the retailers like J.C.

Penney, Wal-Mart and Target Corp., which are set to report in the next few days. On Wednesday, Macy's Inc. reported a 26 percent drop in profits and a 2.6 percent decline in revenue and said that it no longer expects to see sales growth this year. □

Edward Jones to pay \$20M to settle federal bond sales probe

JIM SUHR

AP Business Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP) —

Edward Jones has agreed to pay more than \$20 million to settle claims by federal regulators that the brokerage firm and its former head of municipal underwriting overcharged customers in new municipal bonds sales, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission announced Thursday.

The SEC described the case as its first against an underwriter for pricing-related fraud in the primary market for municipal securities. The commission declined to specify the prevalence of such misconduct, saying only that its investigation was continuing.

Municipal bonds are debt securities issued by states, cities, counties and other governmental entities typically to finance long-term public projects such as

building schools, highways or sewer systems.

Underwriters are required to offer new bonds to their customers at the "initial offering price," which is negotiated with the bonds' issuer. But the SEC said it found that largely between 2009 and 2012, Edward Jones and Stina Wishman — then chief of the firm's municipal bond underwriting desk — instead took new bonds into the firm's own inventory and improperly offered them to customers at higher prices. Edward Jones sometimes didn't offer the bonds to customers until after trading began in the secondary market, then offered them at prices higher than the initial offering price, the SEC said.

Edward Jones' customers paid at least \$4.6 million more than they should have for new bonds. Under the settlement \$5.2 million will be distributed to



Signage for the brokerage firm Edward Jones is seen in San Diego, California. Edward Jones has agreed to pay more than \$20 million to settle claims that the brokerage firm overcharged customers in new municipal bonds sales, the U.S. SEC announced Thursday. (FILE Photo)

those past and current clients, which Edward Jones spokesman John Boul said Thursday number roughly 13,000.

"We know who they are and what amount they will be compensated" with interest, Boul told The Associated Press, adding that Edward Jones cooperated fully with the SEC's probe and never hid the scrutiny,

having disclosed in SEC filings since 2012 that it was the target of an investigation.

"We are pleased to have this matter resolved," he said.

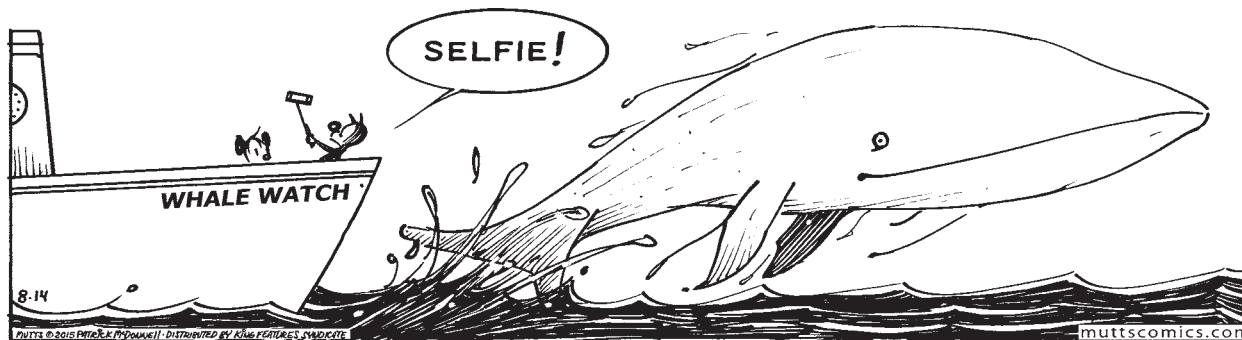
The SEC said Wishman will pay \$15,000 and is barred from working in the securities industry for at least two years.

The St. Louis-based firm

also was accused of supervisory shortcomings in its review of municipal bond trades on secondary markets, specifically in monitoring whether the firm's markups charged to customers for certain trades were reasonable.

Neither Edward Jones nor Wishman admits violating any federal securities laws. The SEC credited the firm with recently undertaking "a number of remedial efforts," including disclosing the percentage and amount of markups on all fixed-income retail order trade confirmations in principal transactions. Andrew Ceresney, head of the SEC's enforcement division, said Edward Jones "undermined the integrity of the bond underwriting process," and that the first-of-its-kind enforcement action "reflects our commitment to addressing abuses in all areas of the municipal bond market." □

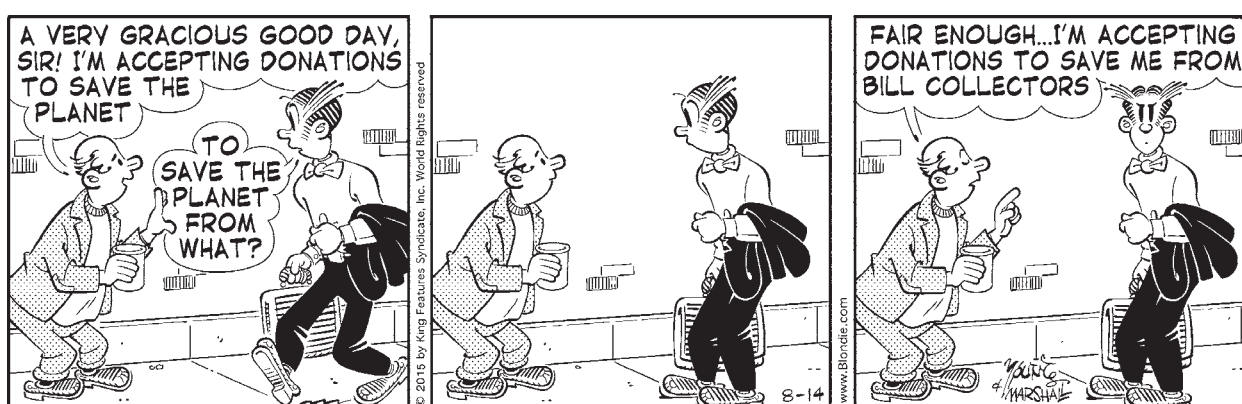
Mutts



6 Chix



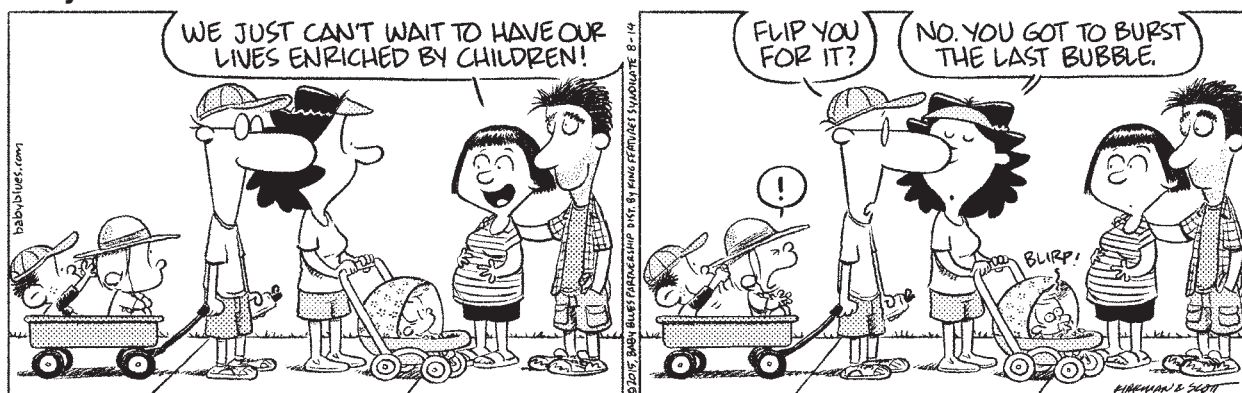
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		4				3		
		5		6		2		
3	2						1	9
			3		4			
	5			1			3	
			7		9			
7	6						2	1
		3		4		9		
		8				7		

Difficulty Level ★★☆☆

8/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

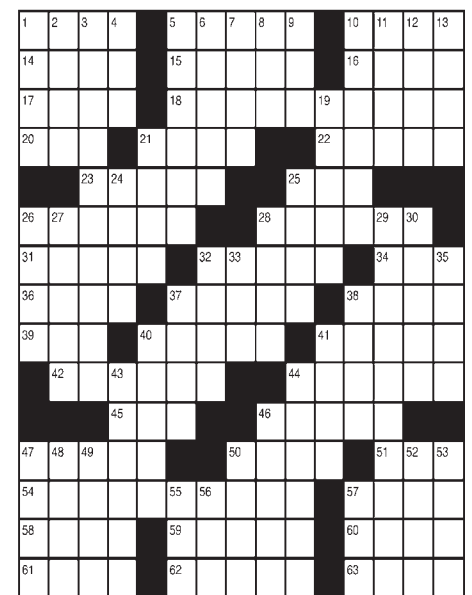
9	7	1	5	6	8	4	3	2
6	2	4	3	1	7	9	8	5
3	5	8	2	9	4	6	1	7
7	3	6	1	2	5	8	4	9
5	4	9	8	3	6	2	7	1
8	1	2	7	4	9	5	6	3
4	6	7	9	5	3	1	2	8
2	9	3	4	8	1	7	5	6
1	8	5	6	7	2	3	9	4

ACROSS

- 1 Burial site
- 5 Shining
- 10 Clerical error
- 14 Circle dance at a Bat Mitzvah
- 15 Prayer stating religious beliefs
- 16 Gather crops
- 17 Mountain goat
- 18 ___ card; expression of sympathy
- 20 Tibia's place
- 21 ___ on; trampled
- 22 Actor Buddy
- 23 Disgust; hatred
- 25 Golf ball holder
- 26 Grand ___; impressive end
- 28 Signal a person to come closer
- 31 Nimble
- 32 Sacred scroll
- 34 ___ person; apiece
- 36 Slaughter
- 37 Erie or Panama
- 38 1 of the 12 sons of Jacob
- 39 2000 pounds
- 40 Well-known
- 41 Late singer ___ Carpenter
- 42 Academy Awards
- 44 Gecko or iguana
- 45 Promos
- 46 "Trailers for sale or rent, rooms ___"
- 47 Seaside
- 50 Authentic
- 51 ___ a Small World"
- 54 Extensive
- 57 Saw or pliers
- 58 Tallies up
- 59 Pay increase
- 60 One opposed
- 61 Myerson or Truman
- 62 Proprietor
- 63 Secondhand

DOWN

- 1 TV's Donahue
- 2 Part of the ear
- 3 "Beaver State" residents
- 4 Payment sent to Uncle Sam
- 5 Accumulate, as interest on an account
- 6 Marrying man
- 7 Give for a time
- 8 Peculiar
- 9 Wine and dine
- 10 Emcee Alex ___
- 11 Strong urges
- 12 Walk the floor
- 13 Frank; candid
- 19 Freeloader
- 21 Flooring piece
- 24 Tyne or Tim
- 25 Bluish-green
- 26 Quick
- 27 Arctic abode
- 28 Actor Pitt
- 29 Surgeries
- 30 At no time
- 32 Scottish caps
- 33 Afternoon hour
- 35 Orange peel



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/14/15

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

MAY	LABEL	SICK
OWES	IGLOO	ACHE
BEAM	SAUNA	LEAN
SHABBIEST	ADDS	
SOON	HAM	
ORPHAN	SHINIEST	
MOLES	BLAND	AMA
EYED	GOING	TRIM
NAB	GRAMS	BETTE
SLEEPERS	RUSHES	
RAN	GIST	
WHOA	ARGENTINA	
OOPS	DARES	FOLD
KNEE	EROSE	YOGA
SEND	SEWED	NAY

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8/14/15

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 37 Civic & Sonata | 48 Conceal |
| 38 Lounge about | 49 Probability |
| 40 Loses color | 50 Harness strap |
| 41 Murder | 52 Carry |
| 43 Hug | 53 Went down |
| 44 Longshoreman, often | 55 Expert |
| 46 Josh with | 56 Uncooked |
| 47 Q-tip, for one | 57 Aristotle's "T" |

FDA approves strong OxyContin for use by children 11 and older

M. PERRONE
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday approved the powerful painkiller OxyContin for a new use in children 11 to 16 who are suffering from severe, long-term pain. OxyContin is an extended-release opioid that has long been used to treat around-the-clock pain in adults. But most pain medications are not approved for use in children. The FDA says it asked drugmaker Purdue Pharma to study how to safe-

ly use OxyContin in children.

"This program was intended to fill a knowledge gap and provide experienced health care practitioners with the specific information they need to use OxyContin safely in pediatric patients," Sharon Hertz, an FDA drug division director, wrote in an online post.

Under the new approval, doctors are directed to only prescribe OxyContin to children who can already tolerate a minimum dose of 20 milligrams of oxycodone, the drug ingredient in OxyContin. □

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Week	room	price
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26	543	\$5,300
40	105	\$5000
48/49	119	\$4,500
21	345	\$3,000
35	314	\$4,000
30	515	\$4,900
30	311	\$5,000
23	343	\$4,500
27	103	\$4,000
29	134	\$4,500
20&21	347	\$4,500
27	341	\$4,000

Contact Brian Cell: 593-0200
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203548

ST P
Violence Against Women

DOCTOR ON DUTY



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Prof. Lorenzostraat 2A
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NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
POLICE TIPLINE	11141
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	911

PHARMACY

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San Nicolas: San Lucas Tel: 584-5119

INFORMATION	118
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

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August 15
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24/7

Odd suckers: Octopus species that's weirdly social, romantic

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The octopus already is an odd-ball of the ocean. Now biologists have rediscovered a species of that eight-arm sea creature that's even stranger and shares some of our social and mating habits.

With their shifting shapes, mesmerizing eyes, and uncanny intelligence, octopuses "are one of the most mysterious and captivating species," said Rich Ross, a senior biologist at the California Academy of Sciences. "They're aliens alive on our planet and it feels like they have plans."

For Ross and colleagues, it got stranger when they got a batch of octopuses from Central America to study. The critters just didn't fit the loner denizen-of-the-deep profile that scientists had drawn for the rest of the 300 or so octopus species. While most octopuses live alone, coming together for ever-so-brief and dangerous mating, couples of this species can live together to mate for a few days in the same cramped den or shell.

While other male octopuses mate from a distance to avoid being cannibalized, these octopuses mate entangled beak-to-beak. That style could almost be thought of as romantic, said Alvaro Roura, an octopus expert at La Trobe University in Australia, who wasn't part of the study.

While other females lay one batch of eggs and then die, the female of this species lives longer and produces eggs constantly, bettering the species chance of survival, Ross said.

But it's more than sex. These octopuses clean out



This handout photo provided by Roy L. Caldwell shows a small male larger Pacific striped octopus stalking its prey.

Associated Press

food waste from their dens. They twirl their arms like an old-timey movie villain with a moustache. And they quickly learn that people mean food: when someone enters the room, they leave their dens and head to the top of the tank.

"It's the most amazing octopus that I've ever gotten to work with," Ross said.

The octopus, normally a dull chocolate brown, suddenly sports stripes and spots when it gets excited or upset, said Roy Caldwell of the University of California, Berkeley. He is the lead

author of a paper on the octopus with Ross and others published Wednesday in the journal PLOS One.

The species is preliminarily called the Larger Pacific Striped Octopus, although it's really not much bigger than a tennis ball — just bigger than a similar species.

It was found almost 40 years ago off the coast of Panama. Other scientists wouldn't believe it was a separate species or that it showed such distinctive behavior. So its discoverer, Arcadio Rodaniche, gave

up and the species was never formally described or named.

Then in 2011, Caldwell got an email from a high school student about his pet octopus, Charlie. It was the same species discovered in the 1970s. Caldwell traced it to a dealer who sent him two dozen of the species from Panama, Nicaragua and Mexico to study in captivity. The researchers note that this octopus species could act differently in the wild.

They included Rodaniche as a co-author after the re-

tired researcher declined to let them name the octopus species after him.

In the journal Nature, a different team of scientists on Wednesday published the first map decoding octopus genes. They found the octopus's genetic code is only slightly smaller than humans, but twice as big as a bird's genetic instruction guide.

Octopuses are invertebrates, meaning they have no backbones. Invertebrates generally have a less evolved nervous systems, but not the octopus. □

For Greta Gerwig, a screwball turn before a directing debut

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Greta Gerwig is sitting in a Greenwich Village cafe trying to explain how she goes from being fully enmeshed in creating a film — co-writing it, producing it — to stepping into the story and inhabiting a character.

"My job is to almost get a bit unconscious about the whole thing," says Gerwig. "It's an odd paradox of completely knowing what you're doing — the language is in you, it makes sense — and also feeling like you're riding something but you don't have control of the speed."

She pauses. "I keep thinking of a jet ski. I don't know why."

"Mistress America," which opens Friday, is the second film Gerwig has co-written with director Noah Baumbach, who is also her boyfriend of several years. Together with "Frances Ha," the two movies have established a wider view of Gerwig, who was already widely seen as among the finest, most authentic actors of her generation.

"Mistress," an '80s-movie inspired farce, and "Frances," a French New Wave-inspired tale of 20s struggle, prove that Gerwig is as deliberate as she is intuitive. Though her sincere, confused characters have the messy blurred lines of life, that doesn't mean they



In this July 28, 2015 photo, actress Greta Gerwig poses for a portrait in promotion of her film "Mistress America" in New York.

aren't finely drawn.

"She's broadening the scope of what she's doing," says Baumbach, who first cast her alongside Ben Stiller in "Greenberg" before the two became closer while making "Frances Ha." "She's a real voice. It wouldn't be wrong to say she has an authorial voice before she's actually directed a movie."

But as Gerwig said in her recent interview, "That, sir, is in the works today." She's finalizing plans to direct a screenplay she wrote called "Lady Bird" that's set in her hometown of Sacramento, California. She'll shoot it in March, with Scott Rudin producing.

So, by jet ski or whatever watercraft metaphor you like, Gerwig is on the move. Up until now, her career, which began in the low-budget "mumblecore" films of Joe Swanberg (some of which she co-wrote) and has dabbled in failed sitcom pilots and larger studio films like "Arthur" and "No Strings Attached," has often been depicted as a pinballing between indie and mainstream.

But in films of any size, working either in front of or behind the camera, Gerwig's aesthetic — awkward, funny, without artifice — is remarkably consistent. It's kind of like the reverse of

"The Purple Rose of Cairo"; instead of a movie character stepping off screen, she's like a real person stepping onto it — and one happy to join any genre.

For "Mistress America," the template was movies like Jonathan Demme's "Something Wild" and Martin Scorsese's "After Hours" — comedies of unexpected adventures propelled by domineeringly charismatic characters.

It was conceived around Gerwig's character, Brooke, a 30-year-old whirlwind of truly felt but poorly planned ambitions. She does interior design, teaches spin classes and is trying to open a Manhattan res-

taurant called Mom's.

Her intoxicating orbit draws in Tracy (Lola Kirke), her stepsister to be, a freshman and budding writer at Barnard College (where Gerwig also went, with playwright aspirations). The two fall in together in New York before, with a car-full of characters in tow, a trip to Connecticut yields a lengthy, manic screwball set piece.

"We wanted to emulate those movies where things go crazy. Maybe our investors would prefer we did not make movies that way," says Gerwig, chuckling. "But I don't know. Nobody was going to make any money, anyway. It seemed pointless not to amuse ourselves."

At the heart of the film in the friendship between Brooke and Tracy, who's infatuated by the larger-than-life Brooke. She begins writing stories glorifying but also humbling Brooke, who has been moving too fast to notice her youth slipping away.

Like Baumbach's last film, "While We're Young," and "Frances Ha," much of the drama comes from characters growing into or accepting their place in life.

"I don't know many people who are like: 'I'm 36 and feeling awesome with that, and not trying to be older than I am or younger than I am,'" says Gerwig, 32. □

New CNBC star Jay Leno talks cars, comedy and Donald Trump

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)

— Jay Leno couldn't help himself. Just because he's no longer doing monologues as host of "The Tonight Show" doesn't mean he can resist cracking jokes about Donald Trump.

Meeting with TV critics Thursday to discuss his new CNBC car show, Leno took a detour to lampoon the GOP presidential front-runner.

Noting the battle for that nomination between Jeb

Bush and Trump, Leno said, "It's kind of like the race between the tortoise and the bad hair."

And recalling that a medical problem scored Trump a deferment from military service, Leno offered his own diagnosis: "He had an intrarectal cranial inversion: His head was up his ass."

Leno reminded reporters that he has two passions in life, comedy and cars. The latter is fueling his new show, "Jay Leno's Garage," premiering on CNBC on Oct. 7.

He said he owns about 135 cars as well as 117 motorcycles, building on a hobby that began as a teen and found him working as a mechanic at car dealerships early on.

Cars provide clarity, he said. "Comedy is subjective. Some people think it's funny, some people think it sucks — and they're both right. But when a car was broken and now it's running, no one can say it's not running."

Cars are more than metal and motion, he added.



Jay Leno participates in the panel at the NBCUniversal Television Critics Association Summer Tour at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

They come fully equipped with memories.

He recalled getting word that a 96-year-old woman

was looking to sell her 1951 Hudson, which she had bought new but was no longer able to drive. □

Ernest Hemingway's Idaho house listed on national register



his July 30, 2007 file photo shows an interior view of the house formerly owned by Ernest Hemingway outside Ketchum, Idaho.

KEITH RIDLER

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — An Idaho house where Ernest Hemingway wrote his last works before killing himself in the main entryway in 1961 has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Nature Conservancy owns the two-story, 2,500-square-foot house in the central Idaho resort town of Ketchum and announced the listing Tuesday.

"We're looking at ways to honor and also build on the literary legacy that Hemingway brought," said Lou Lunte, the group's deputy state director.

Hemingway experts say the famed author worked on "A Moveable Feast" and "The Dangerous Summer" at the house he owned from April 1959 until his suicide in July 1961 at age 61 when, biographers say, he feared he had lost the ability to write to his standards. The National Park Service, which manages the National Register, said the Ernest and Mary Hemingway House was listed because of its ability to provide insights about Hemingway. The Nobel Prize winner was drawn to the region for its hunting and fishing, said Paul Lusignan, a historian with the National Register. The death of Hemingway wasn't a deciding factor

to include the house, but Lusignan said it did play a role.

The house is "associated with a part of his career in which he had lost the ability to write as he previously had," Lusignan said. "He lived a full life and he was going out on his own terms. I think that reflects the persona that he created for himself."

The 1950s house contains an astonishing array of the author's personal possessions rarely seen by the public. Because of zoning restrictions, The Nature Conservancy allows visits to the house by invitation only.

Mary Hemingway, who died in 1986, gave the house to The Nature Conservancy. The group used it as a field office for a time before outgrowing it and moving to other offices. The house has an astonishing array of the author's personal possessions and mid-1950s decor.

"It's sort of frozen in the mid-century time period," said Tricia Canaday of Idaho's State Historic Preservation Office. "It's got all his stuff in it, that's what's so amazing. His boots are sitting by the fireplace and his travel trunk where he painted 'Hemingway' on it."

Lunte said The Nature Conservancy hopes to start a writer-in-residence pro-

gram at the house and is also collaborating with The Community Library to link Hemingway to sites and stories in the area where the literary giant first arrived in the 1930s.

Lusignan said there are now five homes in the U.S. listed on the National Register due to Hemingway having lived or spent significant time in them. One of the most visited is Hemingway's former home in Key West, Florida. □

Associated Press



In this Monday, Jan. 23, 2012, file photo, author and filmmaker James McBride poses for a portrait during the 2012 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Associated Press

James McBride working on book about James Brown

NEW YORK (AP) — National Book Award winner James McBride is returning to non-fiction for his next project. The author of "The Good Lord Bird" has a deal with Spiegel & Grau for a book about the late James Brown. "Kill 'Em and Leave: Searching for the Real James Brown" is tentatively scheduled for March 2016. The new book will be edited by Cindy Spiegel, who worked with McBride on his

million-selling memoir "The Color of Water." According to the publisher, "Kill 'Em and Leave" will trace the "true roots" of Brown and will include interviews with sources who "have never spoken on the record before." McBride himself is a saxophonist who has performed with his own band.

"The Good Lord Bird" won the National Book Award for fiction in 2013. □

NBC officially fires Trump from 'Celebrity Apprentice'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — NBC entertainment chairman, Bob Greenblatt, had two words Thursday on whether Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump would ever return as host of "The Celebrity Apprentice:" Absolutely not. Greenblatt said that the show will not be back next season, but will return in the future with a new host.

NBC cut ties with Trump in June days after he made critical comments about Mexican immigrants and NBC canceled its airing of the Miss USA pageant, which Univision also decided not to air. Greenblatt said he enjoyed working with Trump when the



In this Thursday, Aug. 6, 2015 file photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump participates in the first Republican presidential debate at the Quicken Loans Arena, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

network was still in business with him. "He is a lovely guy. He was very much a collaborator and worked with us closely on 'Celeb-

riety Apprentice' and, you know, there's a really effusive great guy. We weren't in any sort of adversarial position." □



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